

## **SOUTH CAROLINA WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING**

### **Issue Workshop**

#### **Issue Workshop: Impact of Alzheimer's Disease on Families, Business and Government**

#### **Priority Issue Statement**

The impact of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in the United States is costing families, businesses and government billions of dollars. The number of people who will be affected by these diseases will reach epidemic proportions within the next decade.

#### **Barriers**

1. Ignorance
2. Competition for funds
3. Tendency to address crises rather than fund prevention activities
4. Persons with dementia cannot advocate for themselves; caregivers are often burned out
5. Stigma related to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias
6. Cost of war is impacting funding for other priorities
7. Lack of collaboration with research on other prevention initiatives
8. Competition between agencies
9. Unwillingness to take personal responsibility for healthier lifestyles
10. Cultural barriers
11. Nobody wants to increase taxes

#### **Solutions**

1. Urge Congress to recognize and acknowledge the impending epidemic of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and its impact on families, businesses and government.
2. Recommend that Congress enact legislation to support prevention, education and research on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in order to delay onset of dementia and curb associated financial burdens.
3. Funding to support this legislation should be a minimum of one billion dollars yearly for the next five years.